NUMB. LVI.

The GUARDIAN.

Quid mentem traxiſſe polo, quid profuit altum,
Erexiſſe caput? pecudum ſi more pererrant. Claud.

Friday, May 15. 1713.

I Was conſidering laſt Night, when I could not ſleep, how noble a Part of the Creation Man was deſigned to be, and how diſtinguiſhed in all his Actions above other Earthly Creatures. From hence I fell to take a View of the Change and Corruption which he has introduced into his own Condition, the groveling Appetites, the mean Characters of Senſe, and wild Courſes of Paſſions, that caſt him from the Degree in which Providence had placed him, the debaſing himſelf with Qualifications not his own, and his degenerating into a lower Sphear of Action. This inſpired me with a mixture of Contempt and Anger; which, however, was not ſo violent as to hinder the Return of Sleep, but grew confuſed as that came upon me, and made me end my Reflections with giving Mankind the opprobrious Names of Inconſiderate, Mad and Fooliſh.

Here methought, where my waking Reaſon left the Subject, my Fancy purſued it in a Dream; and I imagined my ſelf in a loud Soliloquy of Paſſion, railing at my Species, and walking hard to get rid of the Company I deſpiſed; when two Men who had over-heard me made up on either hand. Theſe I obſerved had many Features in common, which might occaſion the Miſtake of one for the other in thoſe to whom they appear ſingle; but I, who ſaw them together, could eaſily perceive, that though there was an Air of Severity in each, it was tempered with a natural Sweetneſs in the one, and by turns conſtrained or ruffled by the Deſigns of Malice in the other.

I was at a loſs to know the Reaſon of their joining me ſo briskly, when he whoſe Appearance diſpleaſed me moſt, thus addreſſed his Companion, Pray Brother let him alone, and we ſhall immediately ſee him transformed into a Tyger. This ſtruck me with Horror, which the other perceived, and pitying my Diſorder, bid me be of good Courage, for though I had been Savage in my Treatment of Mankind, (whom I ſhould rather reform than rail againſt) he would, however, endeavour to reſcue me from my Danger. At this I looked a little more chearful, and while I teſtified my Reſignation to him, we ſaw the angry Brother fling away from us in a Paſſion for his Diſappointment. Being now left to my Friend, I went back with him at his Deſire, that I might know the Meaning of thoſe Words which had ſo affrighted me.

As we went along, To inform you, ſays he, with whom you have this Adventure, my Name is *Reproof*, and his *Reproach*, both born of the ſame Mother, but of different Fathers. *Truth* is our common Parent. *Friendſhip*, who ſaw her, fell in Love with her, and ſhe being pleaſed with him, he begat me upon her; but a while after *Enmity* lying in Ambuſh for her, became the Father of him whom you ſaw along with me. The Temper of our Mother enclines us to the ſame ſort of Buſineſs, the informing Mankind of their Faults; but the different Complexions of our Fathers make us differ in our Deſigns and Company. I have a natural Benevolence in my Mind which engages me with Friends, and he a natural Impetuoſity in his, which caſts him among Enemies.

As he thus diſcourſed we came to a Place where there were three Entrances into as many ſeveral Walks, which lay aſide of one another. We paſſed into the middlemoſt, a plain ſtrait regular Walk, ſet with Trees, which added to the Beauty of the Place, but did not ſo cloſe their Boughs over head as to exclude the Light from it. Here as we walked I was made to obſerve, how the Road on one hand was full of Rocks and Precipices, over which *Reproach* (who had already gotten thither) was furiouſly driving unhappy Wretches; the other ſide was all laid out in Gardens of gaudy Tulips, amongſt whoſe Leaves the Serpents wreath'd, and at the end of every graſſy Walk the Enchantreſs *Flattery* was weaving Bowers to lull Souls aſleep in. We continued ſtill walking on the middle way, 'till we arrived at a Building in which it terminated. This was formerly erected by *Truth* for a Watch Tower, from whence ſhe took a View of the Earth, and, as ſhe ſaw occaſion, ſent out *Reproof*, or even *Reproach*, for our Reformation. Over the Door I took Notice that a Face was carv'd with a Heart upon the Lips of it, and preſently called to Mind that this was the Ancients Emblem of *Sincerity*. In the Entrance I met with *Freedom of Speech* and *Complaiſance*,

(Price Two Pence.)